

For Immediate Release

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Paws Claws Scales & Tales CD
Provides Songtrack for Summer Readers

Stillwater, OK. Award-winning children's songwriter Monty Harper has released a new CD just in time for summer readers. The *Paws Claws Scales & Tales CD* was inspired by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (www.cslpreads.org) theme which will be used for youth reading programs this summer in thirty-six states, including Oklahoma.

The CD has gone out to dozens of libraries across the nation, and the early response has been very positive. One children's librarian already using the CD to promote her summer program is Sandy Shropshire of Moore, OK. "It's full of unforgettable songs about pets and animals and kids!" she says. "I find myself humming and singing the new material from *Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales* throughout my workday."

"It's all about a bond of love..." sings Harper in the title song and reprise that bookend the ten original pet songs on the CD. While some songs, such as "Dog Books," and "A Pet Like That," feature well-known pets from children's literature, others introduce new characters such as "Eleanor Gerbil," "Fred's Frog, Flippy," and Lucinda, the leucistic alligator.

Harper performed most of the instrument and vocal parts on the CD himself, but he also enlisted help from friends and family. Harper's daughter, Evalyn (four years old at the time), co-wrote and sings on "Hummingbird Hum" and his wife, Lisa, lends her voice to "Villa Villekulla Hula." Two songs were recorded at Woodside Avenue Music Productions in Evanston, IL, and feature guest musicians Steve Rashid, Jim Cox, and Don Stiernberg: "I Took My Dragon For a Walk" and "The Cat Came Back." The latter is a rewritten classic with a new twist ending, featuring Don Stiernberg's world-renowned jazz mandolin.

The CD is rounded out with two danceable bonus songs: "Gimme Vegetables" and "I Go Bananas," and it contains many extra features accessible by computer, such as podcast episodes detailing Harper's creative process. More information is at www.ReadingSongs.com.

Based in Stillwater, OK, Monty Harper performs year-round at schools and libraries throughout the region. This summer will be his sixteenth to participate in the Oklahoma summer reading programs. He will perform songs from the *Paws Claws Scales & Tales CD* for 26 library audiences this June and July.

Harper's songs and recordings have received many accolades including a Parents' Choice Approved Award, a NAPPA Honors Award, Children's Music Web Awards, an iParenting Media Award, a Kids Radio Mania Family Favorite Award, and two Unisong International Songwriting Competition awards. More information on Harper and his music is at www.montyharper.com.

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